

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference YCT-933	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/004689	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 31.03.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 31.03.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
Applicant NIPPON PAPER INDUSTRIES CO., LTD.		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. *(sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau)* a total of _____ sheets, as follows:
 - sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. *(sent to the International Bureau only)* a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s))
_____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004689

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

 - international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:
pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished
sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/004689

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-8	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	2, 3, 7	YES
	Claims	1, 4-6, 8	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-8	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 9-11607 A (Mitsubishi Paper Mills Ltd.),
14 January 1997

Document 2: JP 60-94692 A (Kanzaki Paper Mfg. Co., Ltd.),
27 May 1985

Document 3: JP 62-133198 A (Kanzaki Paper Mfg. Co.,
Ltd.), 16 June 1987

Document 4: JP 9-263040 A (Mitsubishi Paper Mills Ltd.),
07 October 1997

Claims 1 and 5

The inventions set forth in claims 1 and 5 do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 2 cited in the international search report. Documents 1 and 2 both disclose the feature of crimping by means of a casting drum, drying and thereafter applying steam. The purpose of the inventions that are disclosed in documents 1 and 2, like that of the inventions set forth in the present application, is preventing curling; therefore, if conditions such as the temperature, the humidity and the period were to be adjusted with consideration of said purpose, it would be possible to establish parameters similar to those in the inventions that are set forth in the present application as a matter of course.

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**Claim 6**

The invention set forth in claim 6 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1, 2 and 4 cited in the international search report. Document 4 discloses the feature of using a steam chamber as the means for applying the steam.

Claims 4 and 8

The inventions set forth in claims 4 and 8 do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 4 cited in the international search report. Document 3 discloses the feature of coating water upon the surface opposite the finished surface. Meanwhile, the inventions that are disclosed in documents 1 to 4 all share a common purpose, i.e. preventing curling; therefore, it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of combining the technical features in question for use.

Claim 2

The invention set forth in claim 2 is not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report; therefore, the invention in question is novel and involves an inventive step. In particular, the feature of blowing moisture onto both the cast-coated surface and the reverse surface is not disclosed in any of the documents.

Claims 3 and 7

The inventions set forth in claims 3 and 7 are not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report; therefore, the inventions in

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Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

question are novel and involve an inventive step. In particular, the feature of preventing the formation of wrinkles by using an expander roll when humidifying the paper is not disclosed in any of the documents.